Second Annual Anne d’Harnoncourt Symposium
Friday, October 1 and Saturday, October 2
Registration required for Saturday:
www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/usherick.html

The symposium is the Second Annual Anne d’Harnoncourt Symposium, in honor of the late director of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The symposium begins on Friday evening with the keynote address, to be given by Dr. Peter Conn, the Vartan Gregorian Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania and author, most recently, of The American 1930s: A Literary History (2008). Following the keynote address is the exhibition opening reception, in both the Kamin and Kroiz Galleries.

On Saturday the symposium continues with papers by leading scholars from various disciplines on a range of topics raised by the exhibition. The symposium will conclude with a visit to Hedgerow Theatre for dinner and a performance of a dramatic adaptation of Theodore Dreiser’s An American Tragedy.

Wharton Esherick Museum
1520 Horseshoe Trail, Malvern, PA
610.644.5822, www.whartonesherickmuseum.org

The Wharton Esherick Museum, the Chester County studio and residence of Wharton Esherick, is a National Historic Landmark for Architecture.

Hedgerow Theatre
64 Rose Valley Road, Media, PA
610.565.4211, www.hedgerowtheatre.org
An American Tragedy: September 23-October 10

Hedgerow Theatre, started in 1923 by visionary director/actor Jasper Deeter, was a crucible of modern theater in Philadelphia. Today Producing Artistic Director Penelope Reed follows in Deeter’s footsteps.

Philadelphia Museum of Art
Gallery 119, American Art, first floor
Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 26th Street, Philadelphia, PA
215.763.8100, philamuseum.org

In honor of the exhibition and symposium Wharton Esherick and the Birth of the American Modern, the Philadelphia Museum of Art has installed several superb examples of Wharton Esherick’s furniture from their collection of American studio craft.

Exhibition: September 7, 2010-February 13, 2011
Kamin Gallery, Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center
3420 Walnut Street, first floor, Philadelphia, PA
and
Kroiz Gallery of the Architectural Archives
Lower Level of the Fisher Fine Arts Library
220 South 34th Street, Philadelphia, PA

Symposium: October 1-2, 2010
University of Pennsylvania
Friday Evening Keynote Address:
Hall of Flags, Houston Hall, 3417 Spruce Street
Saturday Symposium Sessions:
Annenberg School for Communication
3620 Walnut Street, Room 110

For up-to-date programming and events information visit:
www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/usherick.html

For more information, or to schedule special group tours, please contact Lynne Farrington
215.746.5828 or lynne@pobox.upenn.edu

Wharton Esherick and the Birth of the American Modern
Rare Book and Manuscript Library
University of Pennsylvania
3420 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6206

Wharton Esherick and the Birth of the American Modern has been supported by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage through the Philadelphia Exhibitions Initiative; the David A. and Helen P. Horn Charitable Trust; John and Robyn Horn; Center for American Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art; Department of Art History, University of Pennsylvania; and University of Pennsylvania Libraries.

Image credits: Photograph of Wharton Esherick at his trestle table, ca. 1931. Wharton Esherick, Harvesting, 1927. Woodcut, 6.125” x 7.5”. 
On exhibition: September 7, 2010-February 13, 2011

The Rare Book and Manuscript Library and the Architectural Archives at the University of Pennsylvania, in collaboration with the Wharton Esherick Museum (Paoli, PA) and Hedgerow Theatre (Rose Valley, PA), announce an exhibition and symposium on Wharton Esherick, an artist whose distinctive synthesis of art, theater, dance, and design forged an early and compelling example of American Modernism.

Wharton Esherick and the Birth of the American Modern, the first major examination of Esherick’s work and artistic development in over fifty years, explores Esherick’s artistic evolution during the early decades of the twentieth century, culminating in the exhibition of his work as part of the Pennsylvania Hill House at the 1940 World’s Fair in New York City.

Trained as an illustrator and painter, experienced in modern theater and dance, well exposed to new ideas in philosophy, politics, and literature, Esherick experimented with wood carving and printmaking, laying the foundations for his emergence as an artist of remarkable range. He produced paintings and woodblock prints, set designs, furniture, and architecture.

The Kamin Gallery section of the exhibition explores the social, political, and artistic milieu of Esherick in the 1920s and 1930s and illuminates many of the institutions and relationships that made the American modernist movement possible. While the Kamin Gallery creates a context for Esherick’s work, the Kroiz Gallery section of the exhibition explores Esherick’s evolution as an artist in wood during this period. The exhibition will bring together a range of materials, from books, manuscripts, and photographs to prints, sculpture, and furniture, belonging to both the participating institutions and other collections.

Events & Programs

September 7

Wharton Esherick and the Birth of the American Modern

Exhibition opens to the public

Kamin and Kroiz Galleries

September 23

October 10

An American Tragedy

Hedgerow Theatre, Media, PA

Pre-performance talks will be given an hour before each performance

October 1

Second Annual Anne d’Harnoncourt Symposium

2-4 pm

Pre-conference roundtable for collectors

Meyerson Conference Center

2nd floor, Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center

4-4:45 pm


Hall of Flags, Houston Hall

5:30 pm

Welcome and Keynote Address

Hall of Flags, Houston Hall

7 pm

Exhibition Opening Reception

Kamin Gallery, Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center

and Kroiz Gallery of the Architectural Archives

October 2

Second Annual Anne d’Harnoncourt Symposium

Registration required:

www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/esherick.html

9 am-4 pm

Symposium Sessions

Annenberg School for Communication

3620 Walnut Street, Room 110, Philadelphia PA

5-11 pm

Special Symposium Dinner and Performance

An American Tragedy, at Hedgerow Theatre

October 3

Tour of the Wharton Esherick Museum

Special post-symposium tour of the Wharton Esherick Museum for those symposium participants interested in visiting the museum.

Registration required:

www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/esherick.html

October 9

History of Rose Valley

2-5 pm

Slideshow presentation and walking tour by Morris Potter and Paula Healy. Meet at Hedgerow Theatre, rain or shine; wear your walking shoes and be prepared for some rough terrain

Cost: $15, Limited to 30

October 16

Letterpress Improv Workshop with Robin McDowell

Common Press letterpress room, Morgan Building, University of Pennsylvania, 205 South 34th Street, Philadelphia, PA

Cost: $10 (for materials), Limited to 10

November 6

A Day With Wharton Esherick

10:30 am-noon

Special tour of the exhibition

by guest curator Mark Sfirri

Tour begins in the Kamin Gallery

2-6 pm

Special bus tour of the Wharton Esherick Museum

Leaving from the University of Pennsylvania campus

Cost: $15, Limited to 20

Reservations and payment must be made in advance. For more information or to make a reservation, please call the Architectural Archives (215.898.8223) or email Nancy Thorne (nthorne@design.upenn.edu)

December 4

Christmas with Wharton Esherick

10:30 am-noon

Special tour of the exhibition

by guest curator Roberta A. Mayer

Tour begins in the Kamin Gallery

1-5 pm

Special bus tour of the Wharton Esherick Museum

Leaving from the University of Pennsylvania campus

Cost: $15, Limited to 20

Reservations and payment must be made in advance. For more information or to make a reservation, please call the Architectural Archives (215.898.8223) or email Nancy Thorne (nthorne@design.upenn.edu)

January 21

Exemplar in Wood: Wharton Esherick and the Emergence of the Studio Furnituremaker

Lecture by Edward S. Cooke, Jr., Charles F. Montgomery Professor of American Decorative Arts, History of Art, Yale University.

Location: TBA

late January

Theater Discussion Panel

Date & Location: TBA

February 11

Esherick and Dance

3-4:30 pm

Special tour of the exhibition by Wharton Esherick Museum curator Paul Eisenhauer

Tour begins in the Kamin Gallery

7:30-9 pm

Pennsylvania Eurythmy Ensemble performance

Location: TBA

February 13

Wharton Esherick and the Birth of the American Modern

Exhibition closes to the public

Kamin and Kroiz Galleries

For up-to-date programming and events information visit:

www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/esherick.html